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OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES 8

O.R.E. Operating Procedure No. 64-47

27-48

8 December 1947

SUBJECT: Predictions of Probable Future Trends and Developments of Significance to the National Security

1. General Statement: The element of surprise in foreign trends and developments affecting our national security presents a primary challenge to those charged with fulfillment of the national intelligence mission. Reduction of the element of surprise, therefore, becomes a major objective of the research and analysis element of the intelligence organization. The technique of accomplishing this objective involves not only the systematic appraisal of known trends and developments, but also involves the capacity to forecast accurately probable future trends and developments based upon currently available facts. This technique also provides a basis for assessment of the adequacy of reporting by intelligence collection facilities in instances where (a) trends and developments materialize for which the absence of advance factual data prevented predictable forecasts, and (b) where the incidence of hits and misses of internal and external predictions can be attributed to adequate or inadequate timeliness and quality of flow of relevant information. In order, therefore, to develop and improve within ORE this faculty of prediction and to provide a further basis for assessing the adequacy of existing intelligence collection facilities, the following principles and procedures are prescribed for the preparation of Monthly Prediction Reports.

2. Reporting: Prediction Reports will be prepared to cover those predictions made or received, or on which some result occurred, during each calendar month and will be furnished in duplicate, on forms identical with the attached sample, not later than 1200 hours of the sixth working day after the end of each month. These reports will be transmitted to the Assistant Director, ORE, through the Plans and Policy Staff. All Branches, except the Map Intelligence Branch, and all Groups of the Consultants Panel will prepare a Prediction Report for each month. In instances where no predictions were forecast, nor previous predictions reported upon, negative reports will be submitted.

3. Scope of Reports: Prediction Reports will include the following, as indicated on the attached form:

a. Date on which prediction was made. (Date received by ORE will be indicated in this column also if important.)

b. Statement of Prediction (see Paragraph 4).

c. Code Index of Significance of Prediction (see Paragraph 5).

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d. Source or Origin of Prediction (viz ORE, M/A Sweden, etc.)

e. Sub-sources utilized by Origin where known (OSO, OO, ICASA, etc.)

f. Statement of Results (partially true, true, false).

g. Date on which above statement (3 f) was applicable.

h. Comments (see Paragraph 6).

i. Significant Trends and Developments during the Period Predicted by ORE or by Others.

4. Statement of Predictions: Predictions will be listed on the following order, and will bear a consecutive numerical designation for the entire listing:

a. ORE Predictions

(1) On which no statement of results can be made within the period covered by the report.

(2) On which only a partial statement of results can be made (for both current and previous predictions).

(3) On which a complete statement of results can be made (for both current and previous predictions).

b. Predictions made by Others (To be covered by Branch which has responsibility for Area in which prediction originated).

(1) On which no statement of results can be made within the period covered by the report.

(2) On which only a partial statement of results can be made (for both current and previous predictions).

(3) On which a complete statement of results can be made (for both current and previous predictions).

5. Basis of Predictions: Each prediction will be made on the basis of its significance to the national security, and rated on the form by letter (A, B, C, or D) indicating its relevance to one of the following four points:

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A. It represents an entirely new trend or development of major significance.

B. It represents a major departure from previous known significant trends or developments.

C. It represents a situation which in itself is significant in view of its possible or probable future effect upon major trends and developments.

D. It represents a valuable index of specific source evaluations.

6. Comments: In addition to any other relevant comments, comments should be made in those instances where predictions prove to be erroneous, which shed light on the probable reasons for error.

7. Significant Trends and Developments During the Period not Predicted by ORE or by Others: In such instances, statements will be listed by country, and comments for each statement will include an opinion as to the predictability of the particular situation. If an affirmative opinion is stated in the comment, further indication should be made of the probable factors militating against prediction in this case. While the sample form is not specifically applicable for this category of data, its use is prescribed for this purpose.

8. The above procedures will become effective with Prediction Reports for the month of November.

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Assistant Director
Reports and Estimates

~~*To be utilized only when this is the sole reason for its inclusion as a prediction.~~

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